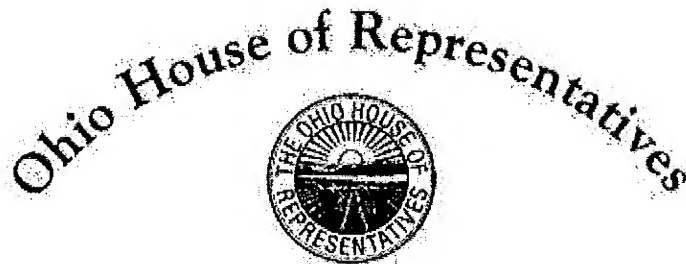


From: Hucke, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
CC: House_All
Subject: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook



To: All House Members
From: Representatives Dever and Greenspan
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
RE: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook

In the near future, we plan to reintroduce legislation that will codify a state government expenditure database. This measure is identical to House Bill 46 of the 131st General Assembly, which **passed the House of Representatives in April of 2015 unanimously with 74 co-sponsors.**

Throughout the legislative process, this legislation had no opponents and attracted broad bipartisan support from organizations including the Buckeye Institute, Ohio Public Research Interest Group, and the Ohio Newspaper Association.

Using existing authority, in December 2014, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel unveiled www.ohiocheckbook.com, an easily accessible, searchable database of state expenditures for our taxpayers to hold state government accountable for spending. The new website, arguably the best of its kind in the Nation, reflects the intent of this legislation, but it could readily be taken down by a future treasurer of state. Through this legislation, future treasurers, regardless of political affiliation or commitment to transparency, must maintain this important tool that already is providing more accountable government to our state's residents.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding its content, please contact Justin Huckle at 466-8120 or Justin.Huckle@ohiohouse.gov or Bill White at 466-0961 or Bill.White@ohiohouse.gov. **The deadline for co-sponsoring this bill is Friday, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m.**

From: Hucke, Justin
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:32 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
CC: White, Bill
Subject: REMINDER: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook

**REMINDER: Deadline to co-sponsor is TOMORROW at
5pm!**



To: All House Members
From: Representatives Dever and Greenspan
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
RE: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook

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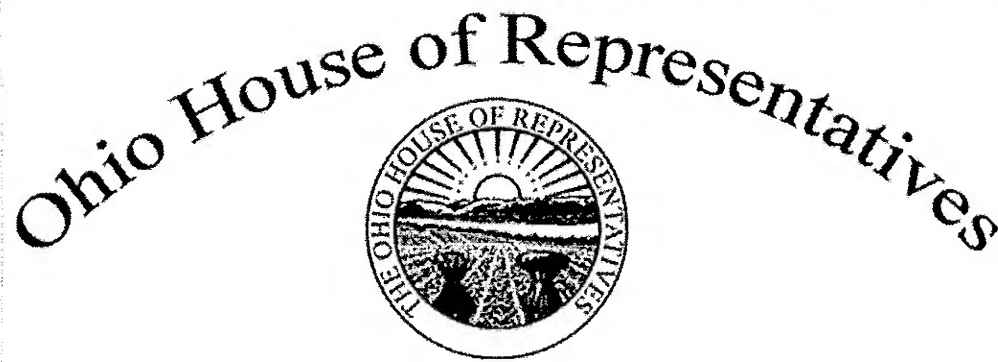
From: Shamblin, James

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:02 PM

To: Rep37

CC: Roegner, Kristina

Subject: COMMITTEE NOTICE: The House Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations



Announcement of Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE: The House Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations

CHAIR: Kristina D. Roegner

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

ROOM: Statehouse Room 115

TIME: **4:00 PM**

Committee Agenda:

1. Committee and Member Introduction
2. Appointment of Committee Secretary
3. Adoption of Committee Rules
4. Presentation: Introduction and overview of Federalism from Daniel J. Dew of the Buckeye Institute and Peter Shane from The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law.

The Chair respectfully requests that testifying parties submit testimony to her office **24 hours prior to committee.**

Testimony can be submitted to: james.shamblin@ohiohouse.gov

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:51 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote](#)
- [Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters](#)
- [Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators](#)
- [JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos](#)
- [Shale Gas Production Ends Three-Year Climb](#)
- [Kasich Administration Announces \\$4.3 million in New Tax Credits](#)
- [OSU Touts New Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus](#)
- [Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ECOT](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Ohio GOP](#)
- [Ohio Digest: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Lanzinger Papers](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Commercial Dockets](#)
- [Legislative Schedule Changes](#)

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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 4:53 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 6/12/17 – 6/18/17



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting
"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily News: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

Daily Advocate: Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Richland Source: Guest column from Rep. Mark Romanchuk: Remembering the significance of the flag

To many, the American flag is the ultimate symbol of the values that our nation was built on—democracy, equality, freedom, and more. Every day, it flies above us, standing strong in the face of the adversities our nation encounters.

Times Reporter: Guest column from Rep. Al Landis: Legislation strengthens our families and communities

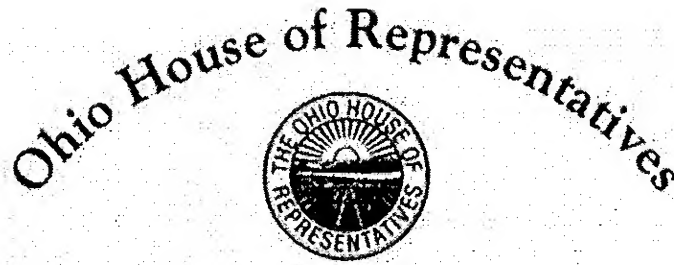
An important part of the success of the House Republican Caucus is to have a focused, member-driven policy platform that serves as the guiding principle behind priority

legislation. Earlier this year, our caucus unveiled the Buckeye Pathway, our policy agenda for the 132nd General Assembly.

News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Rosenberger: Wilmington's indeed split-tacular

A banana divided in two, topped with three scoops of ice cream, and finished with chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and a cherry. What could possibly be more delicious on a hot summer day? To us in Wilmington, what makes the banana split so special is that it was originally created right here in 1907.

From: Rep87
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 1:35 PM
To: GOP_All
Subject: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information
Attachments: Freeze Brief.pdf; We The People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll.pdf



Memorandum

To: House Republican Caucus
From: Representative Wes Goodman
Date: June 30th, 2017
Re: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

I would first of all like to everyone who has offered their support to the Medicaid expansion enrollment freeze. As I said on this House floor, this is the most impactful action taken by any state to roll back and stop the Affordable Care Act, fulfilling promises we have all made to ensure a higher quality of care for all Ohioans. I thank you for your courage in joining me in the fight to ensure that our citizens are free to make their own healthcare choices, and that our Medicaid program is refocused on serving the truly vulnerable.

By now I am sure you have heard from detractors claiming that the freeze is not in the best interest of Ohioans. I encourage you to take a look at the following resources that support our decision and make clear that an expansion freeze is sound public policy.

- Attached: *Freeze Brief*, provides a general outline and talking points on the expansion freeze.
- Attached: *We the People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll*. This poll was taken yesterday, June 29th, and shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans and 81% of

all Republicans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the expansion freeze.

- Articles by Buckeye Institute Executive Vice President Rea Hederman Jr, published in The Hill
 - Highlighting issues with the sustainability and level of care provided by Medicaid: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/336600-medicare-doesnt-work-people-who-are-on-it-dont-have-better>
 - Highlighting and analyzing Ohio's role in "blazing the trail" on Medicaid reform: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/339889-ohio-is-blazing-the-trail-on-healthcare-reform>
- National Review article analyzing the fallaciousness of the bombastic claim, "people will die!": <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448952/obamacare-repeal-will-not-kill-thousands>
 - Note that this article is focuses on the claims being made about the Federal healthcare plans. This claim is even more detached from reality when used to decry our expansion freeze, which allows those currently covered to maintain coverage as long as they are eligible.
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability VP of Research Jonathan Ingram, explaining how the expansion has drawn funding away from the truly vulnerable: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/320620-freezing-obamacare-expansion-will-save-taxpayers-and-the-truly>
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability Senior Fellow Sam Adolphsen, presenting evidence that the expansion may actually exacerbate the opioid crisis: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/339892-want-to-end-the-opioid-epidemic-start-by-freezing>
- Poll from the Foundation for Government Accountability, showing that voters support freezing the Medicaid expansion: <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/National-MedEx-Freeze-Poll-1-23-17.pdf>
- An op-ed that I recently penned that was published by the Daily Signal: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/30/ohio-already-rolling-back-parts-obamacare-states-can/>

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to joining you next week to override the Governor's veto, if need be.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you. My cell phone is (419) 210-0800 and I am available for questions anytime.

Sincerely,

Wes

Medicaid Expansion Freeze Brief

What the Freeze Does

- Prohibits the Medicaid program from covering the Group VIII (expansion) population beginning on July 1, 2018.
- Exempts those with diagnosed mental illnesses or drug addiction, allowing them to enroll after the freeze date.
- Allows those expansion enrollees enrolled by July 1, 2018 to maintain their coverage until they become ineligible or the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Group VIII population is reduced by federal legislation.

Freezing expansion protects the truly needy

- Ohio's Medicaid waiting list enrollment sits at nearly 60,000. These are Ohioans with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who aren't getting the care they need.
- Meanwhile, Ohio is spending billions on welfare for able-bodied (mostly childless) adults.
- Every penny spent on these adults is a penny that can't go to help Ohio's truly vulnerable.
- An enrollment freeze would immediately begin to make the truly needy a priority once again by moving able-bodied adults back to independence and freeing up limited resources for the vulnerable.

Freezing expansion protects taxpayers

- Ohio's Medicaid expansion has been overbudget since Day One.
- From January 2014 through March 2017, total expansion costs ran \$6.1 billion higher than originally projected in 2013 – an overrun of 94 percent. By the end of the year, that overrun will total a whopping \$8.3 billion.
- State taxpayers are now on the hook for 5% of these costs, with that share growing to 10% by 2020. Although the state has only been paying a share of the cost for a few months, the state's share has already run \$38 million over projections – an overrun of 125 percent. That overrun is projected to increase to \$145 million by the end of the year.
- Congress is poised to repeal the enhanced funding for expansion altogether. The House version of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) would eliminate enhanced funding for new enrollees after 2020. The Senate version eliminates enhanced funding through a 3-year phase out, beginning in 2021.
- An enrollment freeze would stop the bleeding immediately, reducing costs and giving taxpayers much-needed relief. Based on the experiences in other states, freezing expansion enrollment at the end of the fiscal year will save between \$4.2 billion and \$5.5 billion over the next biennium. The state share of those savings would total between \$243 million and \$315 million.

Freezing expansion protects enrollees

- An enrollment freeze would allow current enrollees to stay on the program as long as they remain eligible.
- This avoids disruption for enrollees, allowing them to maintain enrollment until their situation improves enough that they can obtain insurance through the individual market or an employer.

Freezing expansion is politically popular

- A national 2017 poll found that voters support freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment by nearly two-to-one margins (53% to 33%).

Freezing expansion is practical and possible

- Other states have used enrollment freezes to unwind pre-ObamaCare expansions to childless adults and to unwind S-CHIP expansions.
- Freezes were previously approved by President Bush and President Obama.
- CMS can grant a waiver to allow states to freeze enrollment.
- CMS is set to release new guidance that will provide state options to freeze enrollment and reduce eligibility levels in the expansion.

Freezing expansion would have no effect on the drug addicted and mentally ill

- Mental health and addiction services accounted for only 5.62% of total expansion spending in 2016.
- Conference committee's version of the budget exempts individuals with mental health and drug addictions from the freeze, allowing them to enroll or reenroll past the freeze date of July 1, 2018.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 29, 2017

**POLL SHOWS OHIOANS – ESPECIALLY REPUBLICANS – DEMAND MEDICAID
EXPANSION FREEZE**

Akron, OH – Tom Zawistowski, President of the We the People Convention announced the results of a statewide Ohio poll tonight concerning the Medicaid Expansion Freeze that was included in the Budget just passed on Wednesday by the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Contrary to polls put out by medical groups and others who benefit financially from Medicaid Expansion, the We the People Convention Poll shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze in the budget, which does not cut anyone's Medicaid benefits, but simply stops growing the program that is already \$7 Billion over budget. Furthermore, the survey showed that if Governor Kasich does line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze, a plurality of all Ohioans, 51.7% to 49.3%, said that they would want the Ohio House and Ohio Senate to reconvene next week and override the Governor's veto.

Since the state is controlled by Republicans and the Budget was pass with only Republican votes, all of them from Governor Kasich, to Speaker Rosenberger and Senate President Obhof, and every Republican in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, will get a very strong message from the poll results from their Republican voters. A total of 81% of Republican voters do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. Then an equally strong 68.5% of Republican voters want Republicans in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to Override the Governor's Veto if required.

Commenting on the poll, Zawistowski said, "Ohioans understand that Governor Kasich's Medicaid Expansion is simply unsustainable. We credit the Republican members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, and their leadership, for recognizing that someone has to stop Kasich before he bankrupts Ohio. While we in the TEA Party/Liberty movement believe that Medicaid Expansion should be ended – its not Medicaid it is welfare expansion – we were convinced that a first step of just stopping the growth of the program, without cutting anyone's benefits, was a "caring way" to take a first step as our Governor likes to say. We fully expect him to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze because John Kasich sees no reason to ever stop giving other people's money away while pretending he cares so much about people – but never mentioning the tax payers who pay for all his misguided spending. Therefore, we also fully expect, and all Republicans should expect, all 59 House Members who voted for the budget with the Freeze in it on Wednesday, and ALL 7 members who did not vote for the budget, to join all 23 members of the Senate next Thursday, July 6th and impose some financial sanity on the Governor by overriding his veto and representing their constituents – particularly the tax payers in their districts who are paying the bill for this irresponsible and unnecessary spending."

This Ohio poll was conducted for the We the People Convention, Inc. by TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Akron, Ohio which was the polling company that first predicted the Trump Ohio landslide victory in last year's Presidential election. This automated poll was conducted on Thursday, June 29, 2017 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. The poll was designed to gather public opinion on the issue of Freezing Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Calls were placed to 45,105 randomly selected voters from our data base of 4.5 million current land line phone numbers in Ohio. Of the 9,901 who answered our call, 625 respondents completed our automated poll, a 6.3% response rate. The poll has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Demographically 26.99% of respondents vote Democrat, 29.6% vote Republican and 43% do not affiliate with any party. The gender breakdown was 57.68% women and 42.32% men. Results were gathered from 80 of the 88 Counties in Ohio. Every age group from 24 year olds to 90 year olds were surveyed.

Answer	Number	Percent	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Veto the Freeze	246	39.4%	35 - 19%	90 - 52.3%	121 - 45%
Do NOT Veto the Freeze	379	60.6%	149 - 81%	82 - 47.7%	148 - 55%
Override the Veto	317	51.7%	126 - 68.5%	65 - 37.8%	126 - 46.8%
Do NOT Override the Veto	308	49.3%	58 - 31.5%	107 - 62.2%	142 - 53.2%

Source: <http://www.wethepeopleconvention.org/>

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:53 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, August 18, 2017
Attachments: Aug18.htm; 170818dayplan.htm; 170818plan.htm

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Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Volume #86, Report #160 -- Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools.

Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roegner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eighth graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country,

in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13


Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

~~Canceled:~~ Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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Thursday, August 24

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)

Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)
Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Willoway Nursery, 4535 Center Rd. (Route 83), Avon, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Lilac Sponsor - includes 6 tickets; \$400 Hydrangea Sponsor - includes 4 tickets; \$200 Rose Sponsor - includes 2 tickets; \$125 per Couple | \$75 per Person to Committee to Elect Manning)

Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry
House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Caf^e, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)
Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Thursday, September 14

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton
Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) golf outing fundraiser, Kirtland Country Club, 39438 Kirtland Road, Willoughby, 10 a.m., (10:00am Brunch, 11:00am Golf. Friends of John Eklund)
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) fundraiser, Cheney residence, 6988 Greensward Road, New Albany, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 per Attendee to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Monday, September 18

Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Country Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, (The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, September 19

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Wednesday, September 20

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) and Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Brian D. Hill for State Representative and/or Friends for Allen Landis)

Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Andy Thompson for State Representative and/or Friends of Wes Goodman)

Thursday, September 21

Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser, Basil's on Market, 312 N Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, 5:30 p.m., (\$5,000 Event Chair | \$2,500 Event Co-Chair | \$1,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Individual to RSCC)

Monday, September 25

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 16405 U.S. Highway 23, Ashville, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Green Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Friends of Gary Scherer)
Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) golf outing fundraiser, Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, 11:30 a.m., (Lunch & Range Time 11:30am. Tee times starting at 1:05pm. \$300 Lunch Only | \$1,000 Lunch and Golf to LaRose for Ohio)

Thursday, September 28

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun and pig roast fundraiser, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Medina, 2 p.m., (2:30-3:00pm - Sign in/Registration/ Meet and greet with Senator Obhof in the Hill'n Dale Lodge; 3:00 pm - Clay Shooting: 5-Stand with Group or Optional Course on your Own. 5:00-6:00pm - Dinner. \$500 Distinguished Expert/Station Sponsor: \$250 Sharp Shooter: \$150 First Class: \$100 Marksman: \$75 Sponsor to Citizens for Obhof)

Friday, September 29

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sunday, October 1

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (Please make checks payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

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Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Governor's Appointments

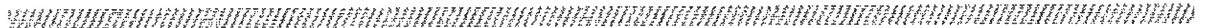
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Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS



Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

Event Planner

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Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, 161 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500, Friend: \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Lexi's on Third, 100 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy)

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Supporter \$500, Attendee \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (\$2500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein's, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$500 or Suggested Contribution - \$350 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, deNOVO, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends for Steve Arndt)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold Sponsor \$2,500, Silver Sponsor \$1,000, Bronze Sponsor \$500, Supporter \$250 to Kathleen Clyde Committee)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest: Senate President Larry Obhof. Event

Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Maumee Bay Brew Pub, 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, 4:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Sponsor; \$500 Lane Sponsor; \$100 per Person; \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 24

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) & Rep. Nick Celebrezze (D-Parma) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 7 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Nicholas J. Celebrezze and Jack Cera for State Representative)

Wednesday, October 25

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Thursday, October 26

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sunday, October 29

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000,

Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee)

Wednesday, November 8

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)
Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele LePore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

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Volume #86, Report #189 -- Friday, September 29, 2017

Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

From confusion and frustration to hopefulness and enlightenment, the responses to state report card grades released this month have run the gamut.

Schools and parents around the state have largely dismissed the rankings, which have dropped significantly since new standards were put in place a few years ago. Many have publicly criticized the grades, saying they're not rooted in reliable methods or just plain don't make sense.

A handful of education researchers and stakeholder groups, meanwhile, have released reports that rely on the report card data and tout its value in tracking trends. The analyses compare charter and traditional schools and gauge, among other things, how disadvantaged students are stacking up to their more privileged peers.

But, like them or not, report cards are here to stay. New federal K-12 laws continue to require states to assess students and schools as well as publish annual ratings.

So how then do policymakers and the K-12 community put an end to the report card frenzy that's become an annual occurrence since the state upped learning standards and moved to an A-F grading scale?

For some, the answer is to change how the bevy of school and testing data is presented.

Push For Change: Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he plans to introduce legislation and bring together a stakeholder group to overhaul report cards so that they no longer grade districts, but instead simply present information.

He said the goal is to fairly provide details of how schools are doing at educating students and quiet public distrust surrounding the current grading system.

"There seems to be an emerging consensus among superintendents and school boards of education and I think legislators are picking this up from the community and parents and from their own experience that report cards have been too volatile," Rep. Duffey said.

More than a dozen other states have instituted an A-F grading scale over the last few years. Like Ohio, many have put off handing out one overall grade to each district in an effort to ease into the change.

However, a handful may never get to that point in their reporting because of backlash to the grades. West Virginia, Alabama and Texas are just a few states debating how to move forward, according to reports.

Rep. Duffey said the public outcry in Ohio is already loud enough to require change, proving that parents and students think their schools are doing better than the report cards reflect.

Many districts, including wealthy suburban districts that were previously accustomed to getting As, have received Fs in a handful of categories over the past two years despite overall scores improving this year. Urban districts that have retooled their entire curricula and cultures say their progress isn't translating to higher report card scores.

"Parents are by and large siding with their school districts over the state, which means the state report card does not have the public's trust," he said. "When it doesn't have the public's trust, it fails to have value as a tool for the state."

The progress measure of the report card is the most-often challenged of the six graded components.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), who chairs the House Education Committee, said its calculation needs changed because it is a zero-sum ranking, meaning districts can only score better each year if they're making more progress in relation to the progress other schools have made.

For example, students at Olentangy Local Schools saw growth on average, but their progress component score was an F because there wasn't as much growth as experienced by students at Rocky River City Schools, which received an A, he said.

"If everybody else is doing OK, then they can fall off and I'm not really sure that that's what we should do," Rep. Brenner said.

"I think we need to make sure that we're giving the data to the schools and districts so they understand what they need to do to improve the districts if they're capable," and the current grading formula doesn't always allow that, he said.

Data analyst Howard Fleeter with the Ohio Education Policy Institute said he's supportive of the data that's gathered to inform the progress component, but also suggested there could be a better way to grade it.

"When I was teaching, I thought that if every student was worthy of an A, every student should get an A," he said.

Having closely analyzed report card data, Mr. Fleeter said he's grateful for the wealth of information Ohio collects, which is much more than other states.

Over the years, it's helped him find data trends that can predict how students will perform in the future, reveal persistent learning gaps rooted in poverty, and determine how much it costs to educate different types of students, among other things, he said.

However, when it comes to how the state compiles the data to determine grades, Mr. Fleeter said there'd be no love lost on his part if the state threw out its A-F scale.

"I think that the data that is on the report cards is valuable. I am less of a fan of the actual letter grades," he said.

"I think one way you could defend the letter grades is to say, 'There is so much data that's out there. That regular person needs some sort of a shorthand way to make sense out of it and that's what the letter grades do.' The problem is that the letter grades also lead to some shame."

When the learning standards weren't as stringent and the A-F scale wasn't yet introduced, nearly 300 districts received the highest rating of Excellent on state report cards, according to Department of Education records.

Now that many of those same schools are receiving low marks on report cards, their morale may be down, Mr. Fleeter said.

Rep. Brenner suggested that the change in report card rankings could also have a negative economic impact on the state. He said it could signal to businesses looking to move to Ohio that students are less prepared than they were a few years ago when grades were good, even though districts, parents and many lawmakers don't feel that's the case.

"If you get Fs on the report card, would a major company like Amazon take a look at that?" he questioned.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said she'd be willing to take legislative action to change report cards, which is the only way modifications can be made. It has to be under the right circumstances, though, she said.

"I'm always open to looking to make the report card a better vehicle that gives us more accurate information and if that's the goal, yes. If the goal is we don't like the results, so let's get rid of the report card, I'd be much more concerned, frankly," said Sen. Lehner, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"We need to make sure that the report card is an accurate tool of assessment, but we do need to make sure that we also assess."

Reframing Report Cards: In an effort to stem the wave of concerns that come with every report card release, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has continually stressed that viewers should look outside the box.

The Ohio School Boards Association advises its members to do the same, said Damon Asbury, the group's director of legislative services. Board members are also encouraged to highlight their districts' non-academic accomplishments.

"It's an important measure, it tells us a lot of information, but it's not the only measure of how to judge your school district and its progress," he said of report cards.

To aid in the push to reshape thinking, ODE this year introduced a section on the individual grade card pages where districts can link to websites highlighting their successes.

Although the aim has been to reframe the general public conversation about report cards, superintendent DeMaria said the importance of the data they provide should still be at the forefront for policy makers.

"It does not paint a complete picture of what is happening in our schools and districts across the state, but it does paint a picture of what's happening academically to a certain extent and it is something that we should pay attention to," he said.

In a presentation before the Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, he said report card results show a clear connection between economically disadvantaged students and poor academic outcomes. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

They also show that a few schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students are also high achieving, meaning that those students can learn under the right circumstances, he said.

"It allows us then to dig into this phenomenon that we're here to talk about and that is understanding the achievement gaps and acknowledging them," Superintendent DeMaria said of the assessment results displayed through report cards.

Sen. Lehner said there's also a lot that can be learned from new report card indicators showing how Ohio students scored on the ACT and SAT, which are included in the Prepared for Success measure.

The scores were "abysmally low and seem to track pretty well with some of the other data that we're seeing in the report card and that should give a lot of people pause that the report card, as clumsy as it may be, as lengthy as it may be, that it actually is telling us something that we need to really sit up and pay attention to," she said.

When the first report cards were released about two decades ago, they only showed what percentage of students were proficient on new state exams in core subjects, how many students were graduating and school attendance rates.

The report cards now include six components, ten measures and a handful of ungraded data such as financial information. It takes into account student scores on more than a dozen standardized tests.

The state's data collection to assess schools has come a long way, Mr. Fleeter said. So while report cards shouldn't serve as the sole arbiter of whether schools are preparing students for the future, it wouldn't be wise to dismiss them.

"Now we have the ability to disaggregate the data and look at different types of students and you can compare them and you really can understand what's behind things and where the problems are to a greater degree," he said. "People tend to not think about it, but we are lucky that we have all this information that's out there because we can understand better what we're doing well and what we're not as a state."

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Three of Ohio's four Republican gubernatorial candidates on Friday worked to sway a room full of party leaders on why they should top the ballot heading into the 2018 election.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor each spoke before the GOP State Central Committee at a Columbus-area convention center. Attorney General Mike DeWine, also a candidate for the top executive office, was unable to attend.

Although Ohio Republican Party chairwoman Jane Timken remains adamant the party will not endorse to avoid tipping the primary scales, each statewide GOP contender was given the chance to appear before the committee.

Mr. Husted kicked off the remarks, touting his endorsements from pro-gun groups and his outreach through ten satellite call centers that have already made more than 20,000 calls.

"We outraised all candidates for this race," Mr. Husted said. "And you haven't seen anything yet. We're going to continue to build on that momentum and I'm really excited about it."

Emphasizing his efforts to streamline the business filing process and make his office self-sufficient, he positioned himself as a candidate who will follow through on his promises and thereby restore the faith of jaded voters who are frustrated with the system.

"I believe I can do the best job for you, that I can be the voice of the Republican party and the voice of the State of Ohio that will bring new ideas," Mr. Husted said.

Rep. Renacci, meanwhile, held true to his campaign strategy of painting himself as a Donald Trump-style outsider surrounded by candidates representing the status quo.

He struck a more conciliatory tone than his first television ad, however, giving some praise to Gov. John Kasich and stating that the party has "strong candidates." His TV spot released Thursday, the first of the campaign, blasted his three primary opponents as "Columbus fat cats."

Rep. Renacci described his background as a business owner who has created jobs and said voters are looking for a different type of candidate at the ballot.

"That's who I am," he said. "I'm an individual who hasn't spent my entire life in politics. That's the direction we need to take -- a little bit different vision."

Lt. Gov. Taylor emphasized her past election performance, including her status as the only Republican to win statewide office during the 2006 election when Democrats swept into office.

"We need a candidate in the general election who can win in November no matter what the political landscape looks like," she said. "And I win elections. Period."

She highlighted her tax and healthcare proposals, including her desire to eliminate Medicaid expansion, and pointed to her leadership of the Common Sense Initiative as a testament to her desire to curb government regulations.

Without naming names, she also seemed to downplay her rivals' fundraising strength and the advantage of Mr. DeWine's name recognition.

"People in our state, they choose our leaders," she said. "If money and a family name was all that mattered in races, Jeb Bush would be our nominee and Hillary Clinton would be our president today."

David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party's chairman, in response called the Republican's primary gubernatorial race "one big race to the right."

"The Republican candidates are focused on nasty attacks against one another, while our Democratic candidates are focused on addressing the concerns of voters," Mr. Pepper said. "We've had 57 straight months of job growth trailing the national average, we're struggling to deal with the nation's worst opioid crisis and our public school system has fallen from fifth in the nation to 22nd. The Republican status quo isn't working for Ohio, and Democrats will represent change in 2018."

Other candidates seeking statewide office that addressed the group include Treasurer Josh Mandel, a U.S. Senate hopeful, Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), who's running for state auditor, and Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), a state treasurer candidate.

Endorsements: The group's endorsement policy review committee also recommended the party take no stance on Issue 1 -- the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights -- or Issue 2 - the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The full committee accepted that recommendation with no discussion.

The Republican committee did officially endorse a pair of Ohio Supreme Court candidates: Judge Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin.

Judge DeGenaro, of the Seventh District Court of Appeals, and Judge Baldwin, of the Fifth District Court of Appeals, are running for seats occupied by age-limited Justices Terrence O'Donnell and Bill O'Neil.

In other business, the committee also appointed Katie DeLand to the 12th District seat formerly held by Becky Engel.

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

The state's two U.S. senators on Friday announced recommendations to fill two seats on the federal bench - and one could mean a change in Gov. John Kasich's cabinet.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) have recommended Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio soon to be vacated by retiring Judge Thomas Rose.

The lawmakers also forwarded to the White House a recommendation that Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Matt McFarland fill the seat on the same court vacated by Judge Gregory Frost.

"I am honored to be considered for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement. "As the approval process moves forward, I remain committed to serving Ohio's employers and injured workers at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

Sen. Portman said Ms. Morrison "enjoys sweeping support for this seat because of her breadth of experience in the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation."

Ms. Morrison, who would serve from Columbus, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She has a law degree from Capital University.

Judge McFarland, who would serve from the court in Dayton, was elected to the state appellate court in 2004 and reelected in 2010 and 2016. Prior to that, he served as a magistrate in the Scioto County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Division. He also served as an assistant prosecutor in Scioto and Licking counties and as special counsel in the attorney general's office.

He also has a law degree from Capital University.

"It is truly an honor to continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and if nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, I will work tirelessly to make Ohio proud in the administration of justice," he said.

Sen. Portman said Judge McFarland has "been a dedicated public servant in the state court of appeals."

"His esteemed reputation is well deserved and I am confident he will continue to distinguished service on the bench," he said.

Sen. Brown said in both cases he was proud to join his colleague in a bipartisan process and thanked both Ms. Morrison and Judge McFarland for their willingness to serve.

Both were recommended to the senators by a bipartisan advisory committee.

The recommendations will be vetted by the White House and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee before being considered by the upper chamber.

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

The Healthy Ohio Medicaid waiver proposal appears to be getting a new look by the Senate, but it's not clear if the chamber will vote to override Gov. John Kasich's veto or approach the effort another way.

The proposal, which was included in the previous budget and rejected by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was included again in the current budget (HB 490) but vetoed by the governor.

The waiver has drawn questions as to whether it could gain federal approval due to the lack of flexibility the legislation would give the state in negotiating with federal regulators. Nevertheless, some officials say they are optimistic that the Trump administration would be more receptive to the plan than President Barack Obama's.

"I have had positive conversations with the administration in Washington about the Healthy Ohio waiver," Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said this week. "I look forward to additional conversations about that, whether the language that is currently pending in the override is exactly right or not, or if there's changes that we could make to that as separate legislation."

Sen. Obhof said the question of whether or not the Senate takes up the proposal would hinge on the continued debate over the Affordable Care Act at the federal level.

"I do anticipate that if the Medicaid expansion is here for the next few months, at some point we're going to re-evaluate the Healthy Ohio plan and whether to move ahead with the override or introduce additional legislation," he said.

The waiver request would allow the state to have certain Medicaid enrollees pay into modified health savings accounts, which would be used to cover co-pays. The state would also contribute to the accounts, with that money acting as a deductible. People who move off of Medicaid would then be able to use the money left over to cover insurance and other expenses

Some, including members of a Senate committee that discussed waivers this week, have said the current proposal might be too detailed and prescriptive, and would not allow the state to negotiate changes with CMS to earn approval. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

In his veto message, Gov. Kasich said the proposal has already been rejected by the federal government once.

"The Administration shares the goal of expanding Ohio's flexibility in managing our Medicaid programs, and is committed to working with the General Assembly to seek achievable solutions that would accomplish this goal," he wrote. "Requiring Medicaid to seek an identical waiver for the Healthy Ohio Program would be duplicative and an ill-advised use of Medicaid resources."

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), one of the architects of the proposal, said the state is still able to negotiate changes with CMS despite how prescriptive it is in code.

"In terms of flexibility in negotiations, there is absolutely nothing in statute that would prohibit changes being made and then being ratified by the legislature," he said in an interview.

Rep. Butler said the Senate should follow the House's lead and vote to override the veto. He said the intent was never to have the administration go to the federal government and say "take it or leave it" with what was passed by the legislature. Any changes requested by CMS could then be approved by the General Assembly.

"Anything to the contrary, I think, is an excuse for not submitting a waiver that would have meaning for our health care system and truly control health care costs," he said.

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

The number of abortions in Ohio continued its more than decade-long decline in 2016, falling to just above 20,000, according to figures released Friday.

The Department of Health reported a total of 20,672 abortions in the state in 2016, down about 1% from the prior year's total of 20,976.

Of those, 19,543 were obtained by Ohio residents. Since 2001, the annual decline has averaged about 900 per year, ODH said.

The abortion rate was 8.9 per 1,000 resident women ages 15-44, which was unchanged from 2015, the agency reported. There were 142 abortions by Ohio residents per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions, which has been tracked since 1976, peaked at more than 45,000 in 1982.

Ohio Right to Life credited the decline to anti-abortion policies enacted at the state level.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio" Mike Gonidakis, the group's president, said in a statement. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion. We continue to advance groundbreaking legislation to protect the unborn, and we thank Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their role in promoting a culture of life in Ohio. By enacting common sense and life-saving initiatives Ohio is protecting both mothers and their babies."

The group touted legislation it's currently pushing for in the General Assembly, including bills to ban abortions due to a Down syndrome diagnosis (HB 214, SB 164) and to ban "dismemberment" abortions (SB 145).

"The historic low of abortions reported today indicates that the culture of life we've strived for is becoming a reality," Mr. Gonidakis said. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Deputy Director Jaime Miracle pointed to an increase in the number of non-surgical abortions, from 1,195 in 2015 to 3,818 in 2016. She said that showed the effects of a change by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow for a one-pill dosage of a medication used in non-surgical abortions.

"The real story with this year's report is that Ohio women are accessing more affordable medication abortion at a rate closer to before Ohio law required physicians to use an outdated, less effective, more expensive protocol," she said in a statement. "When health care policy is shaped by science, not politics, women win. This report shows that the new FDA protocol allows women to access the health care they need and choose the abortion method that is best for them."

Ms. Miracle said Ohio's nine facilities were able to provide safe, legal and affordable abortions to more than 20,000 women in Ohio.

"Unfortunately, Governor John Kasich and his band of usual suspects have wasted the taxpayers' time and money in pushing illegal and immoral tactics designed to block access to abortion clinics," she said. "Since taking office, Governor Kasich has signed 18 restrictions limiting access to reproductive healthcare in Ohio. Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable reproductive health care, including abortion, in their communities and we will continue to fight to ensure this is the reality in Ohio."

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

People suffering from dementia can receive support in their homes, allowing them to stay out of nursing facilities and assisted living longer, the House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia was told this week.

Joe Russell, executive director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, told the task force that providing care for people in their own homes and communities is a quality of life issue.

Family caregivers often face a stressful and constant task of looking after loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia, he said. Providing scheduled respite services and other in-home services can ease the burden on family members without them having to turn to institutional facilities.

Mr. Russell said the Department of Aging has explored a shared living service under the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver, which would allow a live-in caregiver to provide support in the senior's home. He said his group supports the concept but was concerned about the proposed reimbursement rates.

He said the state could also look at programs to allow for 24-hour in-home care for people with limited family supports. That could include a waiver that allows for personal care, homemaking and companion services provided by a live-in provider supplemented by home care aides in shifts, and monitoring technology.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," he said in testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

The task force also heard from Susan Dickey, who works with the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She discussed practice recommendations as part of the association's Quality Care Campaign.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," she said in prepared testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

She said the recommendations could be used as a foundation for evaluating clinical outcomes for care in the state.

Medical Marijuana Updates: The Department of Commerce Friday released information from the applications for cultivator licenses. The business entity and contact information forms for the 185 applicants for those licenses are now available online.

The DOC anticipates awarding cultivator licenses in November.

Earlier this week, the DOC announced that two universities - Central State University and Hocking College - had applied for laboratory applications. The department said it would accept applications from private testing laboratories between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8.

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

Advocates in the fight against addiction gathered at the Statehouse Friday in the annual Rally for Recovery, emphasizing the importance of family and community members in supporting people battling substance use disorder.

The event hosted by Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery featured advocacy groups and providers offering information about social supports for people with addiction. Those who received awards included Gov. John Kasich, who was recognized with the Recovery Ally Award for his work promoting policy to fight drug addiction and expanding Medicaid.

Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the rally was a way to demonstrate the importance of supporting people battling substance abuse.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about how many people around our state are actually living in recovery," she said in an interview. "They're in all neighborhoods, all communities, and recovery is possible. I think this is an opportunity to reduce stigma and show that it isn't just individuals who are living in recovery. It's families, it's neighbors, it's employers, everybody can come together and provide support."

Director Plouck said community supports are essential in helping people who start down the path to recovery stay there.

"Clinical services are increasingly available because of the Medicaid expansion and the changes that have occurred in the last few years, but the availability of different recovery supports is equally important, really," she said. "You can connect with sobriety, but you need supports in the community, you need to not feel isolated in order to sustain that recovery."

Speakers included Joe Smith, a father of three daughters who suffer from addiction, who said recovery takes more than one person.

"It takes the community to recover," he said. "Each one of us who recovers helps facilitate the recovery of others."

Behavioral Health Grants: ODMHAS announced \$6 million in grants this week for community mental health and addiction service providers. The funding was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to certified providers who intended to initiate or expand workforce capacity through training, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs.

"Ohio, like the rest of the nation is experiencing challenges to recruit, retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing workforce in community behavioral health agencies," Director Plouck said in a statement. "These grants represent another step forward as we work collectively to build a highly-qualified workforce and significantly increase system capacity at a time when communities continue to face serious challenges with opioid addiction and mental illness."

The department sent award notices to 61 providers across the state, who were each eligible for one-time funding up to \$100,000.

Pharmacy Grant: The State Board of Pharmacy this week also announced it received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a two-year pre-criminal intervention program to deal with prescription drug abuse.

The program will use data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to identify signs of prescription drug abuse and connect those people with drug treatment or other support services.

"The goal of the program is to prevent addicted individuals from entering the criminal justice system," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven Schierholt said. "By engaging early, we can direct individuals to treatment before they turn to illicit, and more potent, drugs such as heroin or fentanyl."

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

A trial court is under no obligation to wait until the statute of limitations expires to seal the records in a case dismissed without prejudice, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell resolves a conflict between the Fifth District Court of Appeals and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

"Had the legislature intended for the applicable statute of limitations in a case dismissed without prejudice to expire before a trial court can seal a record under R.C. 2953.52(B)(4), it could have used the language it did in R.C. 2953.52(B)(3) regarding applications to seal records of DNA specimens. But it did not do so," he wrote.

The conflict was certified after James Dye of Pickerington had five misdemeanor charges against him dismissed without prejudice in the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He unsuccessfully sought to have the dismissal sealed by the trial court, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the high court reported.

Mr. Dye argued that both courts erred in determining that he was not eligible to have the records sealed because the statute of limitations had not expired.

The state, like Mr. Dye, argued that the statute is unambiguous. However, it said the language clearly makes him ineligible to have his record sealed until the statute of limitations expires.

Justice O'Donnell was joined in his opinion by five of his fellow members of the court, while Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor concurred in judgement only.

Union Case: The Buckeye Institute has joined a legal battle that could have major implications for public sector unions.

The group filed an amicus brief in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist in Illinois, argues that being forced to pay agencies fees after opting out of his collective bargaining unit is a violation of his First Amendment rights.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," President and CEO Robert Alt said. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Federal Judgeship: President Donald Trump has nominated Ryan T. Holte to serve on the bench of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Holte currently serves as an associate professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Technology at the University of Akron School of Law.

He serves as general counsel, partner, and co-inventor of an electrical engineering technology company. He also worked as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, practiced law as an associate at Jones Day and clerked for a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Federal Grant: An eight-state collaborative formed to combat the opioid crisis will receive a \$1 million federal grant to aid in its efforts, the high court announced Friday.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative - comprised of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia - was awarded the grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Our regional effort serves as a bridge connecting key leaders and staff from law enforcement, to courts, to treatment providers, to children services and other aid organizations," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping close the information, enforcement, services and treatment gaps that have allowed this epidemic to fester and grow."

Volunteers Honored: Fourteen individuals who lead tours at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center were honored for their service by all seven high court justices during a luncheon, according to the court.

"Your knowledge and enthusiasm are appreciated throughout the building by the staff and the justices," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "I want you to know that. Those of us who work here, and you by extension, as being a face with many of the students that come into this building, are extremely proud of the building and proud of what you do for us in showcasing the building and this institution."

Judicial Candidates: The Board of Professional Conduct announced its 2018 schedule of seminars for judicial candidates.

Disciplinary Hearings: The Board of Professional Conduct also announced disciplinary hearings scheduled for October.

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

An Elections Commission ruling could drastically alter the landscape of elections in Ohio, a former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party said Friday.

Matt Borges, who is now working for the Yes on Issue 2 campaign, said the panel's Thursday decision to dismiss two complaints against the opponents of a November ballot measure could open the door for political campaigns to use LLCs as pass-through entities to avoid financial disclosures.

Dismissed were complaints that the opposition PAC, Ohioans Against Issue 2, intentionally hid the source of its fundraising and violated state campaign finance disclosure laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

Both complaints filed by the Yes campaign centered on the idea that PhARMA, a trade association of the pharmaceutical industry, was used as a pass-through entity to conceal millions of dollars of contributions from the drug industry to the PAC.

"If they had to do some long-term damage to Ohio to get what they want, they had no problem with that," Mr. Borges said. "They have been trying to keep folks in the dark throughout this entire campaign."

But Dale Butland, a spokesman for the No campaign, said the letter of the law was followed.

"If Matt Borges and the Yes side believe that Ohio law should be changed, then they should go to the legislature and ask them to do that," he said.

Mr. Butland also said Mr. Borges complaint about the dismissal is emblematic of a campaign in a "death spiral."

"The reason that they are going to lose isn't because there hasn't been enough debates, it's not because our side is not following the law, it's because they have a lousy proposal that will do great damage to this state and its people," he said.

ECOT Overpayments: With the announcement Thursday that the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow will be docked an additional \$19 million for overpayments, one gubernatorial candidate is calling for the school to be "expelled."

Betty Sutton called the school's proposed change in status to a dropout and recovery institution a "sham."

"A failing school shouldn't be allowed to teach at-risk kids just so it can continue to rip off taxpayers. When a school lies and cheats they should be expelled. It's plain and simple. If they can't do basic math, they should not pretend to teach Ohio's kids," the Democrat said.

"It is beyond ridiculous that a sham school that leads Ohio in dropouts would be designated a dropout recovery school. We need to make Ohio the opportunity state by providing a good education for our children and that starts with expelling ECOT."

A Department of Education audit found that ECOT last year over-reported the number of full-time students it enrolls by 18.5% (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

The online charter school has already been order to repay \$60 million from the 2015-16 school year.

Renacci Ad: Those watching the Cleveland Browns take on the Cincinnati Bengals this weekend will not be learning about U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's gubernatorial campaign.

The Alliance Republican announced Friday that he has canceled a \$20,000 ad buy during the game in the wake of a growing number of NFL players using the National Anthem as a platform to protest what they believe is racial injustice.

"While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. Throughout our nation's history, countless American men and women of all backgrounds and races have sacrificed deeply to protect and preserve the ideals that our nation and its flag stand for - and our National Anthem serves as a tribute to that sacrifice that we should honor, not disparage," he said.

"And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

Harbaugh Endorsement: Ken Harbaugh, who is seeking to oust U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview), announced that the Communications Workers of America has endorsed his candidacy in the 7th Congressional District.

"I am honored to have this endorsement from CWA. Ohio workers are among the best in the world. We need to fight for fair trade agreements and give our hard-working men and women a level playing field on which to compete," the Democrat said. "Folks working full-time jobs can and should be able to support their families. CWA is fighting for these improvements and so am I."

Added CWA District 4 Vice President Linda Hinton: "Ken's education, military background, and the fact he has spent a life helping others, show the experience and character needed to make workers and working families a priority."

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Ohio's minimum wage will rise to \$8.30 per hour next year, up about 2% alongside the rate of inflation, the Department of Commerce announced Friday.

The \$8.30 wage applies to non-tipped employees at businesses with gross annual receipts of more than \$305,000 per year. For tipped employees, the new minimum wage will be \$4.15 per hour.

The current minimum wage is \$8.15 for non-tipped employees and \$4.08 for tipped employees.

For people who work at companies with gross receipts below \$305,000, and for 14- and 15-year-olds, the minimum wage will be the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The state increase stems from an increase of 1.9% in the consumer price index.

Public Utilities: The Power Siting Board will hold a hearing Dec. 5 to allow the public to voice views about a proposal by Vinton Solar Energy LLC to build a solar-powered electric generation facility in Vinton county.

The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. that day at the Vinton County Community Building in McArthur.

The proposed facility would include arrays of solar panels with a combined generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts. It would be located on 1,950 acres of leased land in Elk Township, and the facility would be connected to the grid through American Electric Power's nearby Elk substation.

The adjudicatory hearing in the case will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: The department will award a \$22,910 solid waste management grant to Mahoning County, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced. The money will help fund the county's solid waste management district's rural recycling education and awareness program.

"I am pleased to announce this federal funding for Mahoning County," Rep. Ryan said in a statement.

"When it comes to preserving our environment for our kids, like many other issues, change starts at home. I am encouraged to see state and local governments like Mahoning County continuing to lead the charge on sustainability education. This funding will give rural Mahoning County an important boost, and represents a crucial federal investment. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight to bring these important funds back to Northeast Ohio."

Agriculture: Gov. John Kasich on Friday signed an executive order creating an emergency rule on inflatable amusement ride safety inspections related to a change in the biennial budget bill.

The measure (HB 49) eliminated the statutory inspection fee for rides and granted authority to the Department of Agriculture director to develop rules for the fee structure.

The emergency rule announced in the EO will fill the gap until ODO develops the final rules for the inspections.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Theodore T. Bauer, DDS of Columbus for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending April 6, 2021.

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board: Jaime L. Darr, DDS of Massillon for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending January 28, 2019.

Ohio Expositions Commission: John R. Page of Lewis Center for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending December 1, 2020.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-032. Requested by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Katherine J. Zartman. SYLLABUS:

A person may not serve simultaneously as prosecuting attorney of Williams County and member of a joint-county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services of a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district of which Williams County is a part.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 3

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 5

Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Room 11B, Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/2/2017

Monday, October 2

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of William Sanderson, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- HB 52** **DEED SOLICITATION** (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 120** **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Eklund, J.) Regarding debt adjusting (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SB 121** **MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE** (Eklund, J.) To include tomosynthesis as part of required screening mammography benefits under health insurance policies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 169** **TRAVEL INSURANCE** (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 199** **MORTGAGE LENDING** (Blessing, L.) To create the Ohio Residential Mortgage Lending Act for the purpose of regulating all non-depository lending secured by residential real estate and to limit the application of the current Mortgage Loan Law to unsecured loans and loans secured by other than residential real estate. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- SB 195** **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 196** **BULLYING** (Williams, S.) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 130** **FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT** (Tavares, C.) To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 150** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (Brown, E.) To prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm; to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession; and to name the act the "Domestic Violence Survivors Protection Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 138** **INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.)** To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 6** **EXTRADITION (O'Brien, S.)** To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 10** **GAULT DECISION (Thomas, C.)** To recognize 2017 as the fiftieth anniversary of In re Gault. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m.
- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"
- HB 286** **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.
- HB 239** **SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, R., Carfagna, R.)** To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Joshua Cox, Benjamin Fields and Megan Marchal, State Board of Pharmacy; Michael Gonidakis, State Medical Board and Robert Schuerger, II, Ohio Athletic Commission
- HB 145** **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)** To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 143** **DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.)** To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 111** **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.)** To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Wednesday, October 4

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 118 **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.)** To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 186 **BUSINESS INCOME (Peterson, B.)** To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party)

HB 69 **TIF DISTRICTS (Cupp, R.)** To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

Tuesday, October 10

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

- If needed
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
- If needed
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- If needed

Wednesday, October 11


Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, September 30- Monday, October 2

Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 12

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Speaker's Task Force on Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education, and Safety, MetroHealth, Scott Auditorium, Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

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From: Esther Bardo
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 10:24 AM
Subject: Pizza, pretzels, beer, & policy with AFF

Hello--

My name is Esther Bardo and I'm the Columbus chapter leader of America's Future Foundation. I'd like to personally invite you to our next event, this Wednesday, November 1 at Callahan's!

Join us as we discuss the policy issues currently facing Ohio with The Buckeye Institute's Daniel Dew and Americans for Prosperity's Micah Derry. See below for further details.

Hope to see you there,
Esther

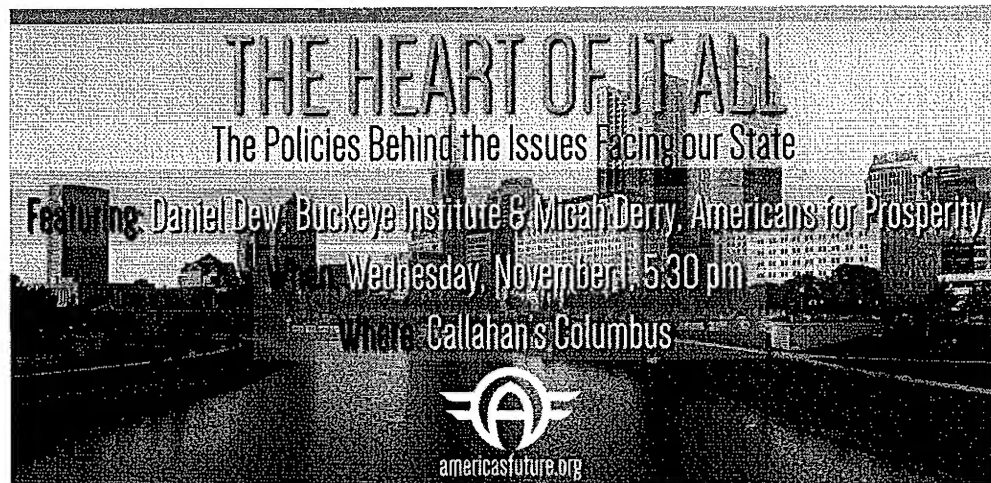
Esther A. Bardo
Columbus Chapter Leader
America's Future Foundation
p:330.831.1114
e:Esther@americasfuture.org



If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#)



Join us next week!



The Heart of it All The Policies Behind the Issues

When: Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Callahan's Columbus, 520 Park Street, Columbus

Cost: Free!

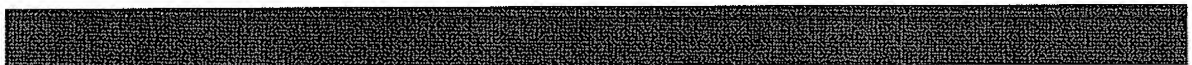


The heart of it all — Join us for a discussion of the policies behind the issues facing our state.

This month, we are welcoming two leading policy voices: **The Buckeye Institute's Legal Fellow, Daniel Dew**, and **Americans for Prosperity's State Director, Micah Derry**. Dew will examine **the potential effects of amending Ohio's traditional criminal justice system with respect to victims' rights**. Derry will describe **the dangers of artificial price control and government overreach in Ohio's economy**. Join us for this dynamic discussion on some of the key issues facing our state.

November 1st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Callahan's — Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and your first drink is on us! [RSVP now.](#)

Spread the word! [Invite your friends to this event on Facebook.](#)



From: American Bail Coalition
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
CC: jclayton@americanbail.org
Subject: Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board on Bail Reform



Dear Mr. Zielinski,

As government stewards, elected officials, and stakeholders in the safety of the citizens of Ohio, I write to you today concerning the ongoing misinformation regarding bail reform.

You may have recently been given a copy of a report from the Buckeye Institute, entitled **"Money Bail" Making Ohio A More Dangerous Place to Live**. This report contains so many errors and incomplete information that, frankly, it should be discarded. Yet, we wanted to take an opportunity to counter some of the claims made in the report and set the bail reform debate into the proper context.

First, "money bail" is not making Ohio a more dangerous place to live. The bail system in Ohio is essentially the same one being run since statehood. The right to bail is enshrined in the Ohio constitution, and Judges have discretion to set the "type, amount, and conditions" of bail. This is also why 69% of judges in a recent National Judicial College Survey did not agree with the elimination of money bail from the system.

Second, what does the Buckeye Institute's new bail utopia cost? New Jersey's program, given as an example, will run out of money on July 1, 2018 unless the legislature completely overhauls the funding of that program. The costs to implement such a program were in excess of \$1 billion in California. Added to that, not only are there not savings, as both Administrative Judge Glenn Grant in New Jersey and the California Chief Justice concur, the costs of shifting away from monetary bail to risk assessments and supervision will largely not materialize and the cost the State and Counties millions of dollars.

Third, the litany of examples cited by the report as horrifying cases where someone was able to post bail begs the question as to what the Buckeye Institute would do with such cases. Yet, the Ohio Constitution already covers

this, giving the power to prosecutors to prove the danger or risk of flight and deny bail. The report suggests that somehow a risk assessment will fix the problem, yet the results of the assessment do not relieve a prosecutor of having to put up the proof necessary to achieve the result.

The report argues that several jurisdictions are seeing tremendous results due to bail reform, but this relies on the results generated by a private foundation that provides a free proprietary risk assessment tool and does its own evaluation of the results. It should come as no surprise that they think it works. **Instead, in sworn testimony, a national expert testified in federal court that the Lucas County, Ohio program has very high failure rates, including 47% of high risk cases. As a result of that testimony, the attorneys in the case concluded that Lucas County, Ohio had created a culture of "non-accountability" in its bail system.**

In San Francisco, the report issued there found that 27% of defendants did not show up under the risk assessment model. In New Jersey, the state has failed to release any numbers, and the report's citation to crime figures does not prove that bail reform has anything to do with that since New Jersey's prison population has declined every year for 15 years - and the population had been declining by double digits leading up to bail reform. Of course, New Jersey's algorithm is releasing prior felons in possession of firearms, counting them as low risk, similar to what is going on in New Mexico.

Risk assessments are indeed not a magic bullet, and there have been serious criticisms lodged against them which the Buckeye Institute report completely ignores. Researchers at New York University concluded: **"The use of such systems by public agencies raises serious due process concerns, and at a minimum they should be available for public auditing, testing, and review, and subject to accountability standards."** Former US Attorney General Eric Holder has also cautioned jurisdictions who using risk assessments saying they "may exacerbate unwarranted and unjust disparities that are already far too common in our criminal justice system and in our society." Several additional recent studies and experts have called into question the race and gender neutrality of such algorithms, and the jury is certainly still out on that question. Indeed the utter lack of transparency of such algorithms is of serious concern.

The Buckeye Institute decides to then demean the bail industry for helping persons exercise their right to bail in Ohio and provide accountability to the Courts. The report cites no statistics on the effectiveness of surety bail in Ohio. That's not to say that adjustments cannot be made, but national data as well as data in Ohio back up the fact that private bail is effective and efficient because it is typically a third-party benefit provided to the State and a defendant at no cost to the State.

Sadly, the Buckeye Institute has sunk to the level of citing newspaper articles as some proof of the key points it makes. It does such surface-level analysis that clearly the conclusion informed the selection of the "research" that is cited. For example, the fact that 57% of persons in jail are awaiting trial tells us nothing—how many of those persons are on a non-monetary hold? Or, what is their prior criminal history, and what would the risk assessment say about them based thereon? How many are there because their attorneys are advising them to take a time-served deal?

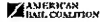
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Sincerely,

Jeff Clayton
Executive Director
American Bail Coalition
(877) 958-6628

= A

From: American Bail Coalition
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:35 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
CC: jclayton@americanbail.org
Subject: Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board on Bail Reform



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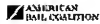
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The Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board with its assessment of bail reform. Moving away from "money bail" has not proven to deliver on its promises. While adjustments to the system can always be made, putting our blind faith in "black-box" algorithms to fix the problem is not only unproven, it is simply naïve.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clayton
Executive Director
American Bail Coalition
(877) 958-6628

From: American Bail Coalition
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 6:16 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
CC: jclayton@americanbail.org
Subject: Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board on Bail Reform



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Sincerely,

Jeff Clayton
Executive Director
American Bail Coalition
(877) 958-6628

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 6:34 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 5, 2018
Attachments: 180305dayplan.htm; Mar5.htm

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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

= A

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

HB 501 **VETERINARY TITLES** (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 298 **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SB 225 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 246 **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (Committee Record), Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Fritsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.

- Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address

Agency Calendar

Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Event Planner

OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

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Volume #87, Report #43 -- Monday, March 5, 2018

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shuttering pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged on doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

Crew Lawsuit: Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake

Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Republican contenders for the 83rd House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83rd District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we

compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslip issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Taylor Endorsement: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the overreach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

New Ad: Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

Balderson Warchest: The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, March 6

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Wednesday, March 7

Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5 p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, March 13

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

Wednesday, March 14

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

Wednesday, March 21

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 17

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Tuesday, April 24

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

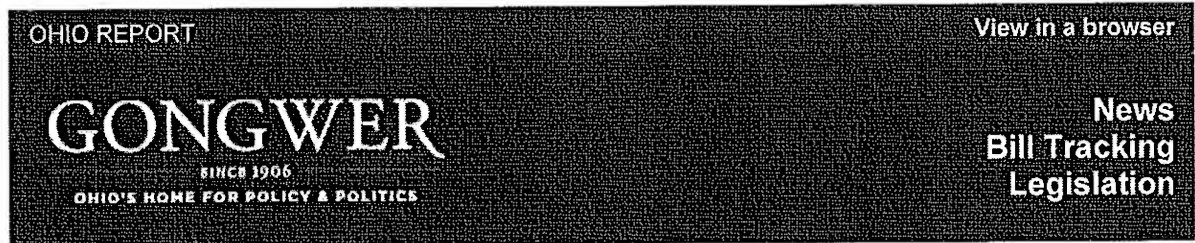
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OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

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High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, April 21- Monday, April 23

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.
Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse,
Columbus

17 S. High St., Suite 630
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Volume #87, Report #77 -- Friday, April 20, 2018

Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

Senate President Larry Obhof this week referred to ongoing talks over the state's energy standards and wind turbine setback revisions as "a long-term project."

The remark lends further uncertainty to the timeline in which Senate Republicans hope to roll out a substitute bill on a measure (HB 114) that in its current form waters down the state's renewable and energy efficiency benchmarks.

Earlier this month, Sen. Obhof had predicted a sub bill could be ready "in the next few weeks." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2018)

But asked this week about the Senate's priorities in the coming weeks, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said: "We've talked a number of times about energy, and particularly 114 probably now is a long-term project."

Sen. Obhof had previously labeled the measure a priority for the first part of the year but the timeline has been pushed back at every juncture as lawmakers grappled with a congressional redistricting ballot issue (SJR 5), the capital budget (HB 529) and other pressing proposals.

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are spearheading talks on that sub bill but have said the timeline and the extent of the changes to the legislation remain unclear. The caucus has yet to reach a consensus on the plan the senators presented behind closed doors last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Changes to loosen the state's setbacks for wind turbines are expected to be a component of the sub bill and advocates have continued pressing lawmakers in recent weeks to walk back restrictions put in place in a 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

Rep. Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) on Tuesday introduced his own standalone measure to reduce setbacks (HB 604). His plan joins several other legislative efforts to accomplish that feat, including proposals from Sen. Matt Dolan (SB 238) and Sen. Michael Skindell (SB 184).

The minority leader's proposal would require turbines to be no closer than 1,125 feet from the tip of a turbine to the exterior of the nearest habitable residential structure. Current law, in contrast, measures the distance from the structure's property line.

The measure would also make permanent tax exemptions for tangible personal property of a qualified energy project using renewable energy resources under certain conditions.

Trish Demeter, the Ohio Environmental Council's vice president of energy policy, welcomed the latest attempt.

"I applaud Leader Fred Strahorn for proposing HB604 - a bill which if passed, would pave the way for full scale wind development in Ohio," Ms. Demeter said.

"For too long, Ohioans have missed out on trends towards wind energy due to unnecessarily large setbacks from property lines. Fixing the wind setback issue is critical for further development of wind energy across the state, and bringing Ohio up to speed in the growing clean energy economy."

State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped a notch to 4.4% in March, maintaining a positive trend of recent months and reflecting the best report since August 2001, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The March rate was a drop from 4.5% in February 2018, the agency reported. Total employment increased 10,800 over the month to 5,579,200, and the number of unemployed was down 9,000 to 253,000.

The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%, and the state has seen an increased of 54,400 jobs during that period, according to state data compiled in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Another strong jobs report out today," Gov. John Kasich stated on his Twitter account. His statement was accompanied by a GIF of actor Chuck Norris giving a thumbs-up.

"Since 2011, Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs, and unemployment is the best it's been since 2001," Mr. Kasich said. "We've come a long way since 2010. Let's keep it going, Ohio!"

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the number of new private jobs reflected an important milestone for the state. The positive news shows the GOP-run legislature's policies are working, he said.

"We work diligently to not only create an environment of possibilities for Ohio's job creators but also to ensure Ohioans from all backgrounds are prepared to take advantage of those opportunities," Sen. Obhof said in a release.

"We've done this through creating a jobs-friendly business environment, developing a jobs-ready workforce and empowering Ohio's small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While this is an important milestone that shows Ohio's policies are working, we have much more to do, and we will continue to build on this progress."

Despite the recent gains, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%. That figure was unchanged from February and down from 4.5% in March 2017.

During a month when most sectors saw job gains, the best performers were the private service-providing sector, which added 5,700 positions, as well as trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400). ODJFS noted the most significant losses in information (-700) and other services (-500).

Agency spokesman Bret Crow said eight industries or sub-sectors experienced record-high employment levels. They are: transportation, warehousing and utilities; finance and insurance; educational and health services; educational services; health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; accommodation and food services; and state government.

The March gains in the construction industry, which was up 1,200 jobs, represented the third consecutive month of steady job growth in the sector, which has gained 5,700 jobs over the last year, Mr. Crow said.

In addition, the state versus federal comparison on job growth favored Ohio, as the state added jobs at a rate that was more than double the national rate, or 0.19% versus 0.07%, he said. And the average weekly earnings for Ohioans is up \$3.14 compared to last month and \$28.45 compared to last year, both outperforming the national rate.

"It's an across-the-board positive report with lower unemployment and new job growth that doubled the nation's," Mr. Crow said.

Andrew J. Kidd, senior economist with the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute, said the latest jobs report shows "Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs."

"However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1%, he added. "This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average, shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as closing tax loopholes and removing unnecessary barriers to employment through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth."

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs," Mr. Kidd added.

Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio, said the state has gained more jobs in the first three months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

"While labor force participation suggests there is still room for improvement, Ohio's labor market is finally tightening," she said. "Even so, many jobs pay too little and offer too-few hours, making it nearly impossible to afford basics like food and health care without

public support. Raising the minimum wage, restoring the 40-hour work week, and supporting paid leave would make the most of this tighter labor market and help rebuild a path to the middle class."

Ms. Halbert said Ohio continues to underperform the nation's 12-month rate for job growth and has "vastly underperformed" the rest of the U.S. since the 2005 tax overhaul was enacted.

"Ohio is not out of the woods. A bad month or two could erase this streak and more months of solid growth are needed to take up the remaining slack in our labor market," she said.

Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department

A senator who sponsored legislation to require an audit of the medical marijuana licensing process said he's supportive of efforts by the Department of Commerce to perform its own review.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) introduced a proposal (SB 264) in February to require a state auditor investigation of DOC's awarding of provisional licenses for medical marijuana growers, including a set timeframe for the review and the awarding of certificates of operation.

It was intended to remove any clouds of suspicion or impropriety from the licensing process, the sponsor said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

That measure had its first hearing this week in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Since February, DOC and other agencies involved in the medical marijuana program have worked to tamp down expectations for the initiative's Sept. 8 go-live date, saying it's unlikely all license recipients will be operational by then. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

The agency worked with an attorney general-appointed special counsel to hire a third-party auditor to review the scoring and find possible improvements. The department reported Friday that Ernst & Young was retained for the work, which does not have a set deadline for completion but is expected to take "a matter of weeks" to finish.

Sen. Coley complimented the department on that effort and said the goal of his legislation is simply to ensure the state has a fair process.

"You could easily argue that they're already doing those things," he said in an interview. "I want to make sure it gets done and it gets followed through."

He encouraged the department to work with the auditor's office to ensure the process is thoroughly reviewed.

"I support Commerce going through and looking at the whole thing, re-scoring if necessary and awarding additional licenses if warranted," he said. "I think that's all a good thing and it would be for the benefit of all patients and the state of Ohio."

Sen. Coley said he's confident the department will correct any issues.

"I think they realize that some mistakes were made and they want to correct them," he said.

DOC will go before the Controlling Board Monday to request more than \$5 million for staffing, legal costs and other expenses for the medical marijuana program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

The battle over automated traffic cameras will continue next week with the latest front being the Ohio Supreme Court.

The city of Toledo and the state are at odds over a previous budget (HB64, 131st General Assembly) provision that allows the state to reduce Local Government Fund distributions for non-compliance with traffic camera restrictions (SB342, 130th General Assembly), some of which were struck down by the high court. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

Ten days prior to the traffic camera restrictions becoming law, the city asked for and received an injunction from the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, the high court reported.

Lawmakers then passed the biennial budget containing the LGF reduction provisions. The city again asked for and received an injunction from the trial court, which found the state would be in contempt if it withheld funding from cities based on non-compliance with a law found to be unconstitutional.

The Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, leading to the state appeal to the high court, where it argues the budget provision is a reporting requirement and a formula for discretionary spending. (Docket)

"Toledo has no 'home rule' right to receive money from the General Assembly," the state writes in a brief. "It is not 'losing' money that it has, but rather choosing to give up money in order to run its traffic-camera program as it sees fit."

The state also contends that the city should have been required to file a separate lawsuit in the matter and that the injunction is a violation of separation of powers.

"The Sixth District's holding invades the legislative power and exceeds the judicial power because courts do not have roving license to enjoin legislation," the state argues. "Courts must instead draw the power to block legislation from specific constitutional prohibitions."

The city, however, claims that lawmakers are seeking to coerce compliance with unconstitutional laws.

It also argues that the state is the guilty party when it comes to the violation of separation of powers.

"If the General Assembly could simply ignore the judicial branch any time legislation is struck by withholding funds to those entities that do not comply with the unconstitutional legislative acts, then there is no separation of powers because the legislature would reign supreme," the city writes in its brief.

"This type of legislation is not a 'new' law that merits a separate lawsuit and separate constitutional analysis, but moreover an affront to the authority of the judiciary. The Penalty Provisions try to avoid judicial control by reenacting unconstitutional laws."

The case is slated for oral arguments as another measure (HB 410) authored by the primary sponsor of the 2014 law works its way through the General Assembly.

Rep. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) legislation would eliminate the use of administrative hearings when a civil citation is issued for a traffic violation recorded by a photo-monitoring device and require local governments that use traffic-monitoring devices to annually file a report with the tax commissioner detailing how much revenue is generated from their use which will then be subtracted from the LGF distribution.

The court will hear three other cases next week:

- In *State v. Dunson*, a Montgomery County man convicted of murder and aggravated robbery will ask the justices to set aside \$6,199 in court costs.
- The court in *East Manufacturing v. Testa* will determine if a Portage County company is eligible for a use tax exemption for the purchase of natural gas it uses to heat six buildings where aluminum truck trailers are constructed.
- A bank will argue that despite federal rules requiring a face-to-face meeting with a borrower after three missed mortgage payments prior to proceeding with a foreclosure it should be allowed to move forward because the meeting occurred during court-ordered mediation after the second attempt to foreclose in the case of *Wells Fargo Bank v. Burd*.

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

A Columbus City School Board member and a law clerk with a background in youth advocacy each say their breadth of experience make them the ideal candidates for the 26th House District.

The Democrat-leaning district is currently represented by Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), whose bid for the Senate is opening the path for a new face. Michael Cole, 45, and Erica Crawley, 37, are both working to secure the Democratic nomination, after which the victor will likely face Republican Shareeque Sadiq in November.

Mr. Cole said he has a track record of "having gotten things done in the most tough circumstances" thanks to his two terms on the school board.

"It's one thing when the whole deck's lined up for you and you're accomplishing some things of the work and will of people," he said. "It's another to have every kind of almost insurmountable obstacle against you whether it's state, federal, local discontent for something and still move the needle of achievement."

Ms. Crawley, while touting her own experience, credits her desire to enter public office to her great aunt who in 2007, shortly before her death, asked her during a conversation on political leaders, "Why not you?"

"She was never elected, never interested in politics per se, but she gave her time," Ms. Crawley said. "She spent a lot of time with the church, with homeless families. She never met an enemy. People loved my aunt and she loved people. I would hope she would be proud of me if I could be half the woman she was and make the impact she made."

Mr. Cole is originally from Cleveland but first came to Columbus as a student at Ohio State University. "This city kind of had me at hello," he said.

He picked up a master's degree in communication at Seton Hall University and then chose to return to Columbus where he sought out service opportunities including a five-year stint as area commissioner in Westgate.

"The opportunity and potential that this city offers I think is tremendous," Mr. Cole said. "I think it was almost a spiritual calling to end up in this city."

He said he worked on neighborhood safety and beautification issues, before segueing into politics and hosting a public affairs radio show. He was first elected to the school board in 2013 and reelected last year. He's currently vice president of the board, which is dominated by Democrats.

"I came with the mindset of working to ensure and strengthen accountability, curriculum, transparency and safety in the district," Mr. Cole said. "I'm committed to bringing that same mindset to the Statehouse."

Even though it contains solely Democrats, he said, the school board has taught him valuable lessons.

"Even if everyone's on the same page from the politics standpoint everyone brings different points of view, skills, knowledge and attitude," Mr. Cole said. "Working among a body politic making decisions and brokering decisions...on matters that effect people is something I've tremendously learned from this experience."

Ms. Crawley is also a transplant, hailing originally from Youngstown. She spent 2000-2003 serving in the United States Navy in Virginia. After giving birth to twin girls - Hope and Faith, who are now 13 - she moved to Cleveland where she finished her college degree in criminology with a focus on juvenile delinquency.

Next was a stint in Atlanta where she received her masters and had an array of jobs centered on supporting youth including work for the Black Child Development Institute and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

She returned to Columbus where she attended Capital University Law School, graduating in 2017 with a concentration in civil litigation. Following that, she clerked for Honda North America and since 2016 has clerked for Eastman and Smith's Columbus office.

Both candidates list education as a central plank of their platforms. For Ms. Crawley that means ensuring equal access to quality education.

"I am an advocate for universal Pre-K," she said. "But also making sure all of our children have the same opportunities. Addressing school funding and school resources definitely plays a part."

She said she also wants to expand trade school options for young students and to focus on economic development.

"Especially in the 26th District there is disinvestment and underinvestment in that community," she said. "I would love to focus on micro-business and small businesses and making sure my neighbors have access to those resources."

She added she'd press for equal access in other areas, such as healthcare, including addiction and mental health support services.

"With that, making sure our aging population has the services they need," Ms. Crawley added. "There are a lot of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren and they don't have the resources necessary to do that effectively."

On the education front, Mr. Cole said he wants to restore consistency, including possibly by requiring five-year curriculum plans. He likened his experience on the board to being Harry Houdini locked in a box with the key inside as he's thrown over Niagara Falls.

"I find out a lot of what confines public schools period...is they are all boxed in by state laws that don't take consideration to how certain things affect us," he said. "From funding to property taxes to education and curriculum and how important it is to make sure it's steady, consistent."

In other areas, Mr. Cole said he wants to alleviate property tax burdens and create more opportunities for mixed income housing.

"I think there are any number of ways we can look at funding public education that doesn't solely fall on the backs of property owners, particularly in poor communities," he said. "I think we can do some income tax sharing. ... I think there are some win-wins. We just have to turn over some stones."

Ms. Crawley said she's the candidate voters should turn to if they seek experience thanks to a career and life experience span the spectrum from nonprofit to for-profit, military and civilian.

"I've had a commitment to being of service to others," she said. "If you look at my career either professionally or in volunteerism...I have always had a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which I lived and making a difference especially for individuals who come from poverty or low-income families."

Mr. Cole and his wife Lee have three children, ages 21, 15 and 14. He is a substitute social studies teacher who enjoys motorcycles and muscle cars.

In addition to spending time with her daughters, Ms. Crawley said she collects books, particularly of the professional development variety or autobiographies.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

From asking customers to question potentially counterfeit pills to teaching them how to dissolve old medication in cat litter or coffee grounds, Ohio's pharmacists have a key role in fighting the state's opioid epidemic.

That was the message from officials with the Ohio Pharmacists Association to the nearly 1,000 pharmacists and students who attended the group's 140th annual conference and trade show Friday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Ernie Boyd, executive director of the OPA, said pharmacists and the public need to "keep the pressure on" to get patients to request other medications and medical professionals to write fewer prescriptions for opioids.

Mr. Boyd said over-the-counter drugs can be a fine alternative to prescription opiates. He said he thinks it was a "major mistake" to allow ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory or pain-relief medication to be sold without a prescription.

"In the public's mind, (ibuprofen) is as innocuous as cheese or rutabaga because it's sold next to those products," he said. "I think that's insane. These are very potent drugs."

The public tends to believe prescription drugs inherently are more effective and over-the-counter drugs safer, Mr. Boyd said, adding that's not always the case.

The convention included a demonstration of multiple ways people can dispose of old or unneeded medication, from using specialty kits to mixing it with water and coffee grounds or cat litter to make it unpalatable to animals and children. Mr. Boyd said pharmacists can explain the importance and methods of disposal and serve on local drug task forces to assist in the opiate fight.

The group also advised pharmacists to explain the importance of avoiding medication from potentially dubious sources, whether it be an acquaintance or an online retailer.

"The large majority of internet sites are (fraudulent)," Mr. Boyd said. "Ninety-eight percent of the online pharmacies are not pharmacies at all. They're fake."

He said counterfeit pills may look virtually indistinguishable from pills produced by the actual manufacturer and could include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. The consequences of consuming the bootleg drugs range from addiction to death.

Dr. Michael Ybarra, deputy vice president of advocacy and strategic alliances at PhRMA, said the public needs to get medicine from a trustworthy source. He said buying from "rogue online pharmacies" can be a dangerous move.

"The safest thing to do is to buy at a pharmacy," he said. "The U.S. distribution system is totally closed (with) FDA inspected facilities."

Mr. Boyd said there are some legitimate online pharmacy sites, which typically feature the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites logo and have a pharmacy domain names.

The most important advice for members of the public, Mr. Boyd said, might simply be to stop using medication that was not prescribed to them.

"You just don't share any of the stuff, period," he said."

Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

A Franklin County judge on Friday declined to put the state's medical marijuana program on hold.

Instead, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye will consider the matter again at a May 11 hearing.

"We're pleased that there's been a decision not to pause the program," said Thomas Rosenberger, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association of Ohio.

The Friday hearing was a result of a lawsuit filed by Ohio Releaf LLC, which was denied a cultivator's license and subsequently sued the Department of Commerce for what it alleges is a failure to comply with public record laws and to hold a timely administrative appeal hearing.

DOC has hired an independent auditor to review its processes. *(See separate story)*

Dismissed Complaint: A three-judge panel has dismissed one of four counts of allegedly violating canons of the Ohio Judicial Code of Conduct filed against Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick DeWine.

The count alleges that Justice DeWine asked Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters, who had 48 cases pending before the court at the time the complaint was filed, to hire his son for an internship.

The remaining allegations involve Justice DeWine's father, Attorney General Mike DeWine. The complaint alleges Justice DeWine improperly failed to recuse himself from cases in which AG DeWine is named as a party and that he appears on his father's gubernatorial campaign web site.

Justice DeWine has denied all of the alleged charges.

New Trial: The nation's highest court has declined to order a new trial for a former state lawmaker.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to grant the request of former Rep. Peter Beck for a new trial. The decision was issued without comment.

Mr. Beck in 2015 was found guilty of 13 charges and sentenced to serve four years in prison. However, a state appellate court in 2016 overturned 10 charges and Mr. Beck served just 16 months in prison.

Amicus Brief: The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking it to strike down a Tennessee law it says discriminates against outdoor advertisements and signs with ideological messages.

The group said the law, which is designed to be in compliance with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, is a violation of the First Amendment.

"While we all enjoy a scenic drive and beautiful roadways, the First Amendment is even more precious to Americans and its protections must not be violated in the name of highway beautification," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "Restricting the placement of outdoor advertisements solely based on the sign's message is a clear infringement of free speech and must be overturned."

Crew Dispute: Major League Soccer and the Precourt Sport Ventures, owner of the Columbus Crew, have asked the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to dismiss a lawsuit designed to prevent the team from moving to Texas.

In a motion to dismiss, the groups call the Art Modell law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The statute violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because it both discriminates against out-of-state residents and impermissibly interferes with the defendants' abilities to conduct their business in interstate commerce," the filing reads.

The law requires the owner of an Ohio professional sports team that plans to cease playing most of its home games in the state to provide six months' notice in order to give others an opportunity to purchase the franchise.

Disciplinary Cases: The Board of Professional Conduct on Friday announced that it has filed 10 disciplinary case reports with the high court.

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

The bipartisan Coalition for Redistricting Reform, the group backing Issue 1, on Friday announced a slew of endorsements for the ballot measure.

The endorsements include the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the NAACP Ohio Chapter.

Campaign advisor Keary McCarthy in a statement said the endorsements "truly signal the bipartisan nature of fixing the way we draw our congressional districts in Ohio."

"Our state lawmakers stepped up to make this bipartisan fix to a very partisan problem a reality, and I'm thrilled to see these powerful groups across Ohio come aboard," he added.

Wells Fargo: Richard Cordray on Friday weighed in on the news that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo \$1 billion.

The bureau's former director in a statement sought to downplay the role that acting Director Mick Mulvaney played in issuing the fine.

"Mulvaney has brought no new enforcement actions since he has been at the CFPB," he said. "Investigations that take many months or even years, and that are just now being finalized, are due to the aggressive work my team did to bring predatory behavior to light. To suggest this is the work of Mulvaney, who has done nothing but throw sticks in the spokes of a talented, hard-working CFPB team of devoted public servants is preposterous."

Gun Legislation: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) used the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting to call for legislation to reduce gun violence.

Sen. Yuko in a statement commended students who on Friday walked out of school to mark the 19th anniversary of the school shooting.

"Our young people have sent us a clear message: we need to act now to protect them. The Senate Democratic Caucus has introduced numerous common-sense proposals to address gun violence and help keep our kids safe. Many of these bills have yet to receive a hearing," he said.

"As a leader in the Ohio Senate, I know we have to do more to stop violence in our schools. Schools should be places where children worry about upcoming math tests, and not about active shooters."

Gun Rally: Three gun rights groups on Saturday will hold a "Patriot Day Rally" at the Statehouse.

The 11 a.m. event hosted by Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Ohio Carry and the Buckeye Firearms Association will feature historical information on the role of private gun ownership in the country's founding and immigrants who will talk about their experiences before and after coming to America, according to a release.

NFIB Endorsement: Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, has the backing of National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio in his reelection bid, the group announced Friday.

Roger Geiger in a statement said Rep. Householder "understands the issues important to Ohio entrepreneurs as demonstrated by his strong voting record with NFIB."

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) criticized state leaders this week after a recent report showed more work is needed to curb the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients into Ohio's waterways.

His remarks were centered on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nutrient Mass Balance Study. The report found "no clear decrease" in nutrient loading, especially from nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Rep. Sheehy in a statement singled out farmers for their role in contributing to runoff that can fuel harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This new report shows that despite years of deceptive talking points from powerful industry representatives in Columbus, we know where all this excess phosphorus pollution has been coming from," Rep. Sheehy said.

"It's not complicated: if you are causing nearly 90% of a problem, you should participate in searching for a solution," he continued. "Instead, their lobbyists have prioritized fighting against policy solutions and even shifting the blame to urban centers that suffer the worst of these consequences."

The Ohio Farm Bureau previously said the report shows that agriculture must play a role in improving water quality. But a spokesman said new regulations aren't needed in the group's view.

Chemicals: The Ohio Environmental Council is requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crack down on toxic chemicals.

The request comes in the form of a petition for rulemaking filed by the council seeking new protections against carcinogen perfluorooctanoic acid and other substances that can be pumped into water and air by manufactures.

"These companies need to stop emitting these chemicals before extensively studying them, and our proposed rules would stop this dangerous practice," said Chris Tavenor, an OEC law fellow.

Copies of the request were also submitted to President Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, Attorney General Mike DeWine and members of Ohio's congressional delegation.

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

For the second consecutive year, Ohio is poised to receive a \$26 million funding infusion to buoy efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The funding announced this week comes from the 21st Century CURES Act passed in 2016. It's part of \$485 million in grants to be divvied up among states this year. Ohio received a similar amount of dollars under the program last year during the first round of funding. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 20, 2017)

"This is good news for Ohio, and these new funds will help our efforts to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic gripping our state," U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said in a statement. "This is another positive step forward, but we must do more, and that's why I continue to push for common-sense solutions like the STOP Act and CARA 2.0 that will help us turn the tide of addiction in Ohio and around the country."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) likewise applauded word of the additional funding.

"For too long, Ohio communities have been desperate for the federal government to step up and provide the necessary resources to effectively combat the opioid epidemic," Sen. Brown said. "While we know there is more work to be done, this funding is a meaningful step forward for Ohio. It's important that the state work to get this funding out to local communities quickly as they continue to battle this epidemic."

The dollars are aimed at boosting evidence-based programs and are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Emergency: Sens. Brown and Portman also welcomed President Donald Trump's approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for disaster assistance following largescale flooding in February. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Sen. Brown said the declaration "will go a long way in helping reassure Ohio communities impacted by last month's devastating floods that they are not alone."

Sen. Portman said, "It will allow our affected communities to get much-needed federal assistance following this winter's terrible storms."

Wright-Patterson: Ohio delegates urged the Pentagon to pick the Dayton-area Air Force base to house the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integrator Organization.

Wright-Patterson is "uniquely qualified" to handle that role, which could mean an additional 400 jobs, all of Ohio's senators and representatives wrote to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

"Based on the criteria used during the strategic basing process, we believe WPAFB's workforce makes the base the logical location for HPSI," the lawmakers wrote. "The basing process specifically requires acquisition professionals who are Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified with tactical fighter support experience, and WPAFB's workforce of engineers, programs managers, logistics managers, and contracting personnel would provide HPSI with an exceptional staff."

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a ballot issue aimed at reforming the state's redistricting guidelines.

The group's board of directors earlier this week voted to support Issue 1.

"The Ohio Chamber has long recognized the need for sensible changes to the redistricting process and we are pleased to join the bipartisan coalition supporting State Issue 1," President & CEO Andrew E. Doehrel said in a statement. "Job creators know the value of a fair and competitive playing field in the marketplace, and State Issue 1 will bring this element of necessary, healthy competition to congressional campaigns, as well."

Mr. Doehrel said the group twice in the past 15 years opposed redistricting efforts that "did not represent a consensus approach."

Procter & Gamble: The Cincinnati-based company saw net sales of \$16.3 billion in the third quarter, up by 4% from the previous year.

Organic sales increased 1% for the quarter ended March 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings per share were \$0.95, an increase of 2%.

Operating cash flow was \$3.4 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 95%, according to the company.

P&G returned \$3.2 billion to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.4 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We delivered modest top- and bottom-line growth in a challenging macro environment in the third quarter," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We have large businesses in several difficult markets. The ecosystems in which we operate around the world are being disrupted and transformed. We will change at an even faster rate -- winning through superiority, cost and cash productivity and a strengthened organization and culture."

KeyCorp: The Cleveland-based company reported \$402 million in net income, or \$0.38 per common share, in the first quarter.

The financial services company reported net income of \$296 million over the same period in the previous year.

"First quarter was a good start to the year, with continuing momentum in our core businesses, as we grew and expanded relationships with our targeted clients," Chairman and CEO Beth Mooney said in a statement. "Revenue increased over 3% from the same period last year, driven by a higher net interest income, solid loan growth and stronger fee income."

First Financial: The Cincinnati-based bank reported net income of \$30.5 million, or \$0.49 per diluted common share, in the first quarter.

First financial reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share, in the previous quarter.

"We are extremely pleased with our strong first quarter performance, representing our 110th consecutive quarter of profitability and top-quartile level returns," Executive Chairman Claude Davis said in a statement. "We are also excited about our recent merger with MainSource which closed on April 1st. We welcome our new colleagues from MainSource and together look forward to building an even stronger company going forward."

SBAC: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has appointed Jennifer Zalecki to the Small Business Advisory Council.

Ms. Zalecki serves as president and CEO of Toledo-based Battery Wholesale. The company, which Ms. Zalecki's father founded in 1983, operates seven retail stores in the greater Toledo area.

"Jennifer has been an effective small business advocate through her service to the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and has demonstrated her high business acumen through the success of her own company," Lt. Gov. Taylor said.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisory Council: Kimpton E. Williams of Waynesville for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending January 31, 2021.

State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services: Capt. Kevin T. Uhl of Sycamore Township for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending November 12, 2019.

Public Benefits Advisory Board: Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Friday, April 27


Accountancy Board, 77 S. High St., Conference Room West B & C, 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, April 24

OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Thursday, April 26

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,

Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf~~e~~, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Tuesday, May 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Wednesday, May 2

Pro-life Legislative Day

Thursday, May 3

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Tuesday, May 8

Primary election day

Thursday, May 10

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, May 11

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Saturday, May 12

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, May 15

Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.

Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at sbewley@oahp.org or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, May 16

Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day
Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)
2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.
Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor- \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

Wednesday, May 23

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)
Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)
Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Thursday, May 24

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, May 31

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Friday, June 1

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |

Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Monday, June 4

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)

Friday, June 8

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 11

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

Tuesday, June 12

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Friday, June 15

Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports

Monday, June 18

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 25

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 19

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser

Friday, July 20

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 26

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 31

Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

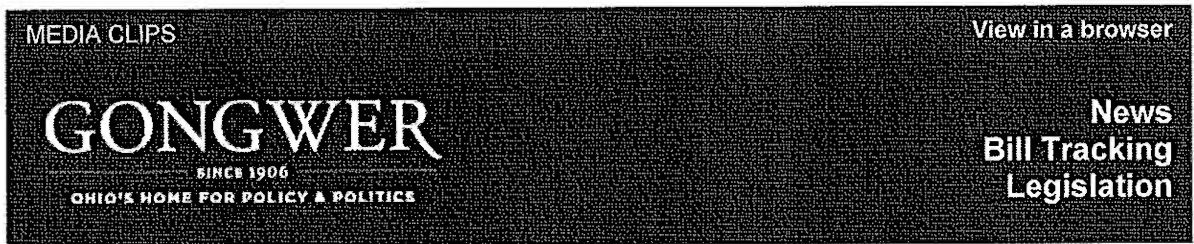
Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 8:31 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, May 2



NEWS

Officials find flaw with medical marijuana grower scoring (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio governor to announce chronic pain prescriber standards (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio's top court to hear arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Here are all 403 personalized license plates Ohio rejected in the past year (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

Who's who in the 'toss-up' race for Congress (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

As Richard Cordray campaigns for Ohio governor, the federal agency he headed is in trial in Cleveland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Conservative Buckeye Institute says bail reform in Ohio would save money (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Dennis Kucinich says the bulk of his consulting fees came from anti-G.M.O. group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Kane launches second ad of GOP primary for Tiberi's old seat (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Kucinich: I got \$122,000 as consultant for sustainable food group (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Mike DeWine stresses conservative credentials in new TV ad (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio asks feds for OK to impose Medicaid work requirements (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio may ban free international travel for lawmakers (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Report: Bail reforms could save Ohio taxpayers \$67 million a year (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Sexual assault legal loophole prevents victim military transfers, lawmaker says (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Algal blooms harder to control because of climate change, other factors, data shows (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Commissioners, state representative advocate for regulation of payday loans (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Groups explore extent of ECOT 'hush money' (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)